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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 31st meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 31 October 2000 at 3 p.m.

*Chairman:* Ms. Barrington (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Ireland)
*later:* Mr. Niculescu (Chairman) ..... (Romania)

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*In the absence of Mr. Niculescu (Romania, Ms. Barrington (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, took the chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 102: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries** (*continued*) (A/55/222, A/55/257-S/2000/766 and A/55/459)

1. **Mr. Kondo** (Japan) said that the draft annotated outline distributed at the recent session of the Trade and Development Board formed a sound basis for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee's deliberations on the new programme of action to be adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. It was to be hoped that the working draft would be available in sufficient time for members of the Preparatory Committee to consider it before their January meeting.

2. The new programme of action should advocate genuine ownership by the least developed countries and partnership among all relevant development actors in the international community. In order to ensure its consistency with national programmes of action, countries should submit their programmes of action in a timely manner; however, every effort should be made to avoid imposing excessive burdens on the governments of least developed countries and duplicating the work of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other programming instruments for national development. Coordination among all actors at the country level would be essential. Existing development policy coordination mechanisms, such as the round tables of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and relevant groups of the World Bank, must also provide input. The new programme of action must take a more focused approach and set clear and realistic priorities without attempting to satisfy all parties on all issues.

3. **Mr. Shihab** (Maldives) said that, despite the previous two Programmes of Action, the situation of the least developed countries was rapidly deteriorating as a result of deeper indebtedness, increased poverty and disease, globalization and marginalization and declining flows of official development assistance and foreign direct investment. The Conference must produce a new programme of action which addressed those developmental problems and fostered a spirit of true partnership between the least developed countries and the developed countries and international financial organizations.

4. The list of least developed countries was growing and now stood at 48 countries, with 3 more eligible for inclusion. Efforts to modify those statistics by expelling countries from the list or measuring their economic performance and vulnerability by inaccurate and insensitive criteria would only aggravate their problems. Maldives had been earmarked for graduation from the list of least developed countries in 2000 and yet it remained vulnerable, its economic growth having been depressed by factors beyond its control. The current criteria for graduation should be more attuned to the narrow-based, small and vulnerable island economies, while taking into account the numerous differences among individual small island States. In view of the inconsistent recommendations by the Committee for Development Policy regarding the graduation of certain small island developing States, the current criteria must be urgently refined. That issue should be considered by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the forthcoming Conference.

5. **Mr. Rinchhen** (Bhutan) expressed his delegation's full support for the statement made by the representative of Bangladesh, highlighting issues of concern to the least developed countries. His delegation also noted the encouraging statements made by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union, Norway and others, which demonstrated their political will to fulfil their commitments to the least developed countries. A vital aspect of the preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries must be a review of the outcome of the previous Conference on that subject and the implementation of its Programme of Action. Indeed, the failure to implement that Programme of Action, coupled with the sharp decrease in assistance levels was undermining the confidence of the least developed countries in the upcoming Conference.

6. His Government was in the process of preparing for the forthcoming Conference at both the national and regional levels. It was pursuing a people-centred development policy and welfare programmes for all sectors of society, particularly the poor, which promoted equal opportunities for all; however, it could not maintain those efforts without assistance. In

conclusion, he called for renewed partnership between the least developed and developed countries on the basis of human solidarity and shared responsibilities.

7. *Mr. Niculescu (Romania) took the Chair.*

**Agenda item 97: Training and research** (A/55/31)

8. **Mr. van Ginkel** (Rector, United Nations University) welcomed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" (A/54/2000) and the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2), which the United Nations University fully supported. The United Nations University (UNU) now consisted of its Tokyo centre and a global network of 12 research and training centres and programmes and had a budget of $36 million. Since knowledge was a critical component of the digital global economy, it was attempting to adapt its programmes, priorities and methods of work to that new context, as reflected in its strategic Plan 2000, entitled "Advancing Knowledge for Human Security and Development". The University was gradually clustering its ongoing projects and initiatives within two broad thematic areas: peace and governance, which focused on governance and pre-conflict and post-conflict issues, and environment and sustainable development, which focused on development, science and technology and the environment, and was making every effort to enhance its connections with the United Nations system. In recent years, the University had increased its inputs to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its participation in the activities and work of the United Nations. In a number of major public addresses, particularly at meetings of the World Bank and the Security Council, the Secretary-General had explicitly relied on the University's research findings regarding conflict prevention and poverty eradication strategies.

9. In January, UNU had held a conference on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary to take stock of international trends and showcase new ideas and fresh thinking of relevance to the United Nations. Papers prepared for that conference had served as an intellectual resource base for the preparation of the Secretary-General's report and were available on the University's web site. In his 1997 reform plan, the Secretary-General had stressed the paramount importance of knowledge to the successful functioning of the United Nations in the twenty-first century and specifically called on the University to tap knowledge, analyses and expertise from around the world in the main areas of the Organization's work. A meeting of United Nations research agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system with research capacity, organized jointly by the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations University, had culminated in the launching of an annual Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue to Strengthen Inter-agency Cooperation and Cooperation between Suppliers and Users of Research. In that same vein, he had participated in the first Inter-Academy Council in Tokyo, designed to determine how academies of science and other institutions around the world could support the United Nations system in its work.

10. The University also continued to play a significant role in the follow-up and implementation of United Nations global conferences, including the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", in preparation for which it had organized a women's leadership research and training course in early June and an agenda-setting workshop on gender issues the previous week, and the World Water Forum for which it was developing, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) a United Nations World Water Development Report. It had been designated as a partner to the Government of Japan in the preparations for the third World Water Forum, to be held in 2003, and, under the leadership of UNESCO, was contributing to the follow-up of the 1998 World Conference on Higher Education. UNU was organizing joint workshops with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on innovation and social sciences, to be held later in the year, and another on research management, to be held in February 2001. It was also placing increasing emphasis on transmitting knowledge to decision makers in the private sector and civil society. It had carried out a major research initiative on Kosovo, examining the deeply troubling precedent of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) circumventing the United Nations Security Council to launch an offensive war.

11. The University was particularly concerned with issues of economic and environmental governance. In July 1999, together with other United Nations bodies, it

had organized an international conference on interlinkages among multilateral environmental agreements and had carried out a study on the economic and social impact of El Niño in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WTO, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United States National Center for Atmospheric Research.

12. The University was anxious to contribute to the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations in 2001. Already, it had addressed the themes of global capitalism and sustainable development; science, knowledge and ethics; international society, justice and equity; and religion, gender and culture. In the coming months, it would organize, in conjunction with UNESCO, a series of workshops on, respectively, education, science, ethics and media or communication in the context of civilizational dialogue, culminating in a major conference, to be held in Tokyo and Kyoto in June 2001.

13. It was also forging links with research institutions around the world that could bring "additionality" to its work and that of the United Nations. It was also establishing contacts with research groups, international organizations and industries. In that connection, the University's Food and Nutrition Network had strengthened institutes in Chile, Guatemala, India and Thailand and initiated a new programme on sub-Saharan Africa. The University had also developed networks in the areas of natural resource management in Africa and sustainable land use in dry areas and had launched a Global Development Network. It would capitalize on advances in information and communications technology to enhance the effectiveness of its networking activities, develop even broader partnerships and disseminate its work more widely to academic communities in various parts of the world. The University was also investing in virtual university technologies and was working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and some Norwegian institutions to develop modular interactive course material based on the Global Environment Outlook 2000.

14. A key priority of the Strategic Plan was to strengthen the University's capacity-building activities, designed to benefit academic institutions in developing countries and assist the career development of scholars and scientists. To that end, the University provided over 120 fellowships to young scholars every year in a wide range of fields and engaged in integrated capacity-building linked to research or to development projects — for example, water management in Mexico or software technology in developing countries — often in cooperation with UNDP.

15. In May and June, the University had organized a second six-week course for postgraduate students and professionals in international fields. By 2001, it would be offering seven Global Seminars designed to increase understanding and awareness of global issues and the work of the United Nations among the student population of various countries. As part of its effort to promote postgraduate education, a comprehensive external evaluation of the University's capacity-building work was being carried out and would be reviewed by its Council in 2001.

16. **Mr. Kataria** (India) said that the United Nations University could provide significant inputs to the deliberations of United Nations organs through the creation of knowledge networks. His Government had consistently attached importance to the research and University's capacity-building work and had contributed generously to its Endowment Fund and its World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU/WIDER), based in Helsinki. Eminent and widely respected Indian scholars had served on the University's Governing Council and the governing boards of its research and training centres, and numerous Indian institutions and scientists had participated in its activities. The Indian Institutes of Technology, the country's premier institutions in the field of engineering, computers and bio-technology, were also partners of UNU.

17. He expressed appreciation for the University's contributions to United Nations deliberations in recent years, in particular, to the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee, particularly its panel discussion of May 2000 on information technology and economic growth and development.

18. His delegation welcomed the two thematic areas of the University's Strategic Plan but cautioned that the mandate of the intergovernmental processes and the priorities of developing countries must be taken into account. In the field of development, a topic of major relevance to Member States would be the application of science for development. The University should redouble its efforts to disseminate its research findings, particularly those relating to science and technology

and information technology. His Government attached great importance to strengthening capacity-building through training and supported the Strategic Plan's call for broadening those activities. In that context, national expertise should be utilized more fully and programmes should be more demand-driven in order to meet developing countries' needs.

19. **Mr. Ji Fusheng** (China) noted with appreciation that, in recent years, the activities of the United Nations University had been more closely linked with those of other United Nations organs, and had provided helpful services to the Secretary-General and Member States, inter alia, by helping to increase understanding of the serious problems facing developing countries and the causes thereof. Within the context of the University's seminars, courses and educational programmes to strengthen capacity-building in developing countries, he had attended courses of the UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNU/IIST), which were conducted in countries marginalized by the globalization process. Those courses had given many young professors and graduate students access to the newest ideas in computer science which, in his view, would help to bridge the digital divide.

20. According to the report of its Governing Council, the University had received very little financial support from the United Nations system; it was time that that situation was rectified. The United Nations system and Member States must demonstrate the political will to implement the provisions of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 2000.

21. **Mr. Weichel** (Canada) reaffirmed his Government's support for the activities undertaken by the United Nations University and recalled that four years ago Canada had provided funding to establish the International Network on Water, Environment and Health at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The network operated as a project-based, revenue-generating network using experts seconded from a wide range of organizations to form customized, multidisciplinary project teams. Since its inception, the network had completed a variety of projects around the world including an integrated, self-sustaining, locally-managed system to collect, store, monitor, transport and apply sewage biosolids as an agricultural fertilizer; and an integrated coastal zone management regime, and had helped improve water management and capacity-building in developing countries.

22. **Mr. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) welcomed the University's new strategic plan and noted that the research carried out by the University in the areas of peace and governance and environment and sustainable development had increased understanding of those issues. By collaborating with institutions around the world the University's work acquired a truly global perspective. Its work in analysing the complex processes that affected the global environment and in trying to develop a more coordinated approach to environmental policy was a good example of that perspective.

23. Jordan was proud to host the UNU International Leadership Academy, established in 1994, which had carried out a number of valuable activities, including a course on female leadership.

24. The University contributed to capacity-building in the Arab world through the International Network on Water, Environment and Health, which aimed to develop the human resources needed to improve management of water in developing countries. In view of the importance of the Network, Her Royal Highness Princess Rania had accepted the Presidency of its Consultative Council. In September 2000, a workshop had been held in the Jordanian city of Aqaba on the management of industrial waste, and a further workshop, on the planning and management of water resources, would be held in Amman in February 2001.

25. **Mr. Kumamaru** (Japan) said that his Government highly valued Mr. van Ginkel's leadership in promoting more focused research and organizing a series of public forums and it also appreciated the University's increasingly active participation in the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations forums. It welcomed the adoption of the University's "Strategic Plan 2000: Advancing Knowledge for Human Security and Development" and looked forward to seeing the University take an even more active role in the future, particularly in connection with the global conferences to be held in the next few years.

26. The issue of improving the University's interaction and communication with other parts of the United Nations system was crucial because the University needed to keep in close touch with the concerns and requirements of the United Nations

system as a whole so that it could conduct activities useful to the Organization, and therefore to Member States. His delegation welcomed the improved cooperation with many parts of the United Nations, and wished to encourage the Rector to intensify his efforts in that area. However, he stressed that such interaction and communication needed to be two-way. He urged the University to exploit more fully information and communication technology, so as to enhance its ability to connect and interact with the rest of the United Nations system.

27. In the area of management and administration, he welcomed the progress made in response to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit regarding efficiency, cost-effectiveness, financial transparency and accountability, and wished to encourage the Rector to make further efforts to follow up on the report. Finally, he stressed the importance of enlisting more countries as financial contributors to the University's work.

**Agenda item 95: Environment and sustainable development**

**(g) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind** (A/55/162-S/2000/715)

28. **Mr. Szyszko** (Poland), speaking in his capacity as President of the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, noting that the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention would be taking place in two weeks' time in the Hague, said that in the three years since the Kyoto Conference no technical decisions had yet been reached, and so the objective set by the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol could not be fulfilled. However, some bridges had been built between the developed and developing countries.

29. Following the last round of negotiations and preparatory meetings, considerable progress had been made, notably on the subject of land use, land use change and forestry. All Parties had agreed that carbon sinking was as important as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There seemed to be general agreement that the management of land and natural resources might serve as a model for a multifunctional economy which might encourage carbon sinking and permit rational protection and utilization of natural resources. In order to preserve credibility, there could be no further delay in reaching decisions and ensuring implementation of the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

30. Not enough was being done to draw people's attention to the danger of global warming. It was important to lobby citizens who were aware of the problems, and to convince negotiators of the need for rapid and effective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There was no need for the developing countries to repeat the errors which the developed countries had committed. Consensus-building required that assistance be rendered to developing countries. One way to do that would be to have an efficient system of finance which enabled developing countries to protect their natural resources and to develop according to the principle of sustainable development. In the interest of the entire world it was essential for the developed countries to help the developing ones and for the latter to reciprocate.

31. **Mr. Zammit Cutajar** (Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) said that in the negotiating process for the Sixth Conference of the Parties there was a tendency to emphasize the Kyoto Protocol and the need to make it ratifiable. Although it had been ratified by 30 countries, not one Annex I country had yet done so because they were awaiting the outcome of the Sixth Conference regarding the rules for implementation. Ratifiability of the Kyoto Protocol would be only one element of success at the Sixth Conference. The other was that developing country delegations should leave it feeling significantly better off in terms of support for their efforts to address climate change and to adapt and shift their economies on to climate-friendly paths.

32. A balance had to be struck between securing the ratifiability of the Kyoto Protocol and continuing and intensifying support for developing countries in their efforts to contribute. That balance was reflected in the substantive agenda of the Sixth Conference of the parties, which included strengthening the capacity of developing countries to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, the impact of response measures on, for example, oil-exporting countries which would see their market share affected, the classical issue of finance for the transfer of technology and capacity-building, and the specific concerns of least developed countries.

33. The clean development mechanism was in essence an economic incentive for developing countries to be more active in their climate change strategy. The issue of the ratifiability of the Kyoto Protocol involved trade-offs between its various aspects. It was an attempt to move developed countries towards fundamental changes in long-term patterns of production and consumption, and away from the sometimes profligate use of fossil fuels towards energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport measures. But those were difficult measures to take, and had economic and political costs, so the Kyoto Protocol also opened up easier opportunities for action through domestic measures, including the use of sinks, and offshore opportunities.

34. One way of looking at the current negotiation from the point of view of the developed countries was that it was a trade-off between measures that were difficult to take and those that were easier. The offshore mechanisms were emission trading, the joint implementation mechanism and the clean development mechanism, all of which enabled Annex I parties to obtain part of their target offshore either through the exchange of part of their quotas or through investment in projects. The clean development mechanism also aimed at promoting sustainable development and assisting in adaptation. In all discussions on mechanisms, a balance was being sought between credibility and efficiency.

35. The issue of credibility involved how the emissions to be reduced were to be measured and the way in which an emitter was to be held accountable. Work on that was proceeding very well, and possibly not receiving sufficient recognition. The issue also involved the definition of sinks, and what was to be admitted under that heading in the first and subsequent commitment periods. Thirdly, it involved mechanisms, and whether there were any limits to their use and conditions regarding the eligibility of projects under one or other of the project-based mechanisms: for example, whether sinks were eligible for the clean development mechanism. There was also the rather technical issue of the solidity of project baselines against which reductions under the joint implementation regime and the clean development mechanism would be measured and the standards for accrediting auditors to verify them. Finally, there was the question of compliance, and whether there were consequences if a country did not fulfil its targets.

36. The Sixth Conference of the Parties was a political deadline, and it was vitally important that it be a success. Time was needed for laws to be passed to set up national institutions to make the Kyoto Protocol work and for the private sector to make the necessary investments in cleaner technologies. There was therefore a premium on action being taken now. Beyond the Sixth Conference lay the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and after that a new scientific assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to be completed in the third quarter of 2001, and new negotiations between the Parties towards targets for the second commitment period, 2013-2017. There would also be the question of engaging the developing countries in an appropriate form, guided by the principles of the Convention. Finally, there was the question of linkages and synergy among the different environmental and sustainable development instruments.

37. **Mr. Anaedu** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group of 77 and China had doubts as to whether the expectations of the Sixth Conference of the Parties would be realized, since there were huge numbers of complex and contentious issues which had yet to be addressed. The Group's priority issues, which included financing of development and transfer of technology, as well as providing capacity-building, must be dealt with in concrete terms and at the same pace as the issues of interest to developed countries before any meaningful success could be achieved. Mere rhetoric would no longer suffice. That was also true of article 4.7 of the Convention, implementation of which would take fully into account economic and social development and poverty eradication as the overriding priorities of developing country Parties.

38. The Group of 77 saw the lack of progress in the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the developed countries as a vivid manifestation of their unwillingness to fulfil their commitments under the Convention. Thus, it cautioned against any attempt to open debates on enhancing the contribution of the developing countries at the Conference of the Parties. Rather, the Conference must simplify the complexities and contentious issues raised by the reports on mechanisms, land use change and forests; that would require the utmost transparency and the full participation of all parties.

39. The Group supported the need for research on new and renewable forms of energy, in order to keep all options open. It urged caution, however, concerning the call for the creation of an intergovernmental task force to develop guidelines for decision makers on reforming energy prices which did not include other factors of production. It saw no reason to prolong the existence of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development beyond the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. All crucial issues relating to energy and sustainable development should be addressed in 2002 at the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

40. Finally, the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly should be taken into account when setting dates for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the various environmental conventions, so as to ensure adequate representation of developing countries, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/445.

41. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that the small island developing States and the least developed countries made practically no contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, yet they were likely to suffer the most as a result of climate change and sea level rise. The particular vulnerability of those countries underlined the urgency of dealing effectively with climate change and its adverse effects.

42. Industrialized countries must lead the way in demonstrating their intentions to fulfil their obligations under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. In that regard, deciding on guidelines and rules for the use of the flexible mechanisms under the Protocol was extremely important. His delegation agreed that the mechanisms should be supplemental to domestic action, but saw no basis for defining "supplemental" in quantitative terms. In its view, such a restrictive definition had serious political implications; it would further alter the effectiveness of the mechanisms and would require additional bureaucracy.

43. The clean development mechanism was of vital importance as a tool for emissions reductions in developing countries as well as a vehicle for foreign direct investment and technology transfer. By contributing to sustainable development while helping the developed countries meet their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, the mechanism served as a new and promising tool in the area of development policy.

44. Norway's participation in the pilot phase of activities implemented jointly had taught it that there were many challenges, but also many opportunities for fruitful cooperation between developing and developed countries. It was important to reach a comprehensive decision at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties, including a strategy for capacity-building, as it was vital for all parties to create an enabling environment to ensure more climate-friendly development. Barriers to technology transfer must also be identified and analysed.

45. The parties must reach sufficient agreement at the forthcoming Conference to allow the ratification process to go forward. Agreement on rules and guidelines for the Kyoto mechanisms was vital, along with agreement on a credible compliance system, capacity-building and technology transfer. However, the parties must not let their desire for the perfect solution prevent them from achieving an adequate one.

46. **Ms. Corado-Cuevas** (Guatemala) said that, with 2.8 million hectares of broadleaf forest, Guatemala was an oxygen-producing country with enormous potential to become a net carbon sink through its forest cover. Her Government attached great importance to climate change because of the impact that such change would have on its people and economy. It was a party to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and had signed the Kyoto Protocol. It had completed national studies on inventories, vulnerability and mitigation, which would provide the basis for the first National Communication to be presented at the sixth Conference of Parties.

47. Concerning issues to be discussed at the Conference, her delegation believed that no agro-forestry system should be excluded from negotiations on carbon fixation. Guatemala would not enter into any voluntary commitments until it had evaluated its own needs and priorities. Her delegation would also welcome clarification about the transition phase from joint implementation to the clean development mechanism. Finally, it was important to recognize the service that developing countries which generated oxygen were providing to reduce the detrimental effects of greenhouse gases produced in industrialized countries.

48. **Mr. Punj** (India) said that his Government was committed to protecting the environment while addressing the development needs and aspirations of developing countries. Immediate measures were needed to provide developing countries with the necessary financial and technological resources to enable them to meet their commitments under the Convention. His delegation expressed deep concern at the tendency to look on the Kyoto mechanisms as vehicles for investment and technology transfer and to ignore the commitments made for provision of new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology on concessional terms.

49. India attached great importance to the forthcoming Conference of the Parties and would participate actively. It hoped that agreement would be reached on principles, rules and modalities for the three mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. In the view of his delegation, most emissions reductions by the developed countries should be achieved through domestic action; reductions through the mechanisms should be supplemental thereto. Moreover, the choice of areas and technologies for the clean development mechanism should be left to the recipient Governments so that their sustainable development priorities could be fully respected. Project baselines were another area of critical importance.

50. His delegation firmly rejected attempt to link ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to voluntary commitments of the developing countries. It called for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and participation in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities.

51. **Ms. Seth** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that small island developing States had the most to lose from sea-level rise and the other predicted manifestations of global warming. Since all the evidence pointed to the fact that temperatures could go higher than previously predicted if emissions were not curtailed, action was needed by the global community in general and by the industrialized countries in particular, since they were the largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

52. The CARICOM countries noted with concern that, although more than 150 countries had signed the Convention, the only ones to ratify it were the developing countries, which had no legally-binding commitment to reduce greenhouse gases. To date, not one industrialized country had ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The small island developing States, which would be among the first to suffer from the adverse effects of climate change, could only ask their partners in the industrialized world to give proof of their commitment by taking immediate action. The Caribbean Community had been doing its part by assessing and identifying its options for adaptation under a project funded by the Global Environment Facility. In addition, many of its members would present their initial national communications at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties. The environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol must be maintained if real and measurable reductions in emissions were to be achieved.

53. **Mr. Koech** (Kenya) said that, while the Kyoto Protocol provided a general blueprint for action, many of its provisions, especially those relating to emissions trading, the clean development mechanism and joint implementation, were yet to be addressed. Accordingly, the Sixth Conference of the Parties should finalize the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as well as the outstanding elements of the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, such action would be in line with the Millennium Declaration. His delegation hoped, in that regard, that the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 would yield positive results.

54. Recognizing the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities, he underscored the need to develop a meaningful global response to the threat posed by global warming. Since massive investments were required for the production and adaptation of new and renewable forms of energy, closer international cooperation was required. He called on the developed countries to assist the developing countries to initiate and implement capacity-building programmes. He also urged Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to make every effort to ensure that it entered into force by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to start reducing their required greenhouse gas emissions.

55. **Mr. O'Brien** (Australia) said that his Government had signalled its strong support for effective action to combat global climate change by committing almost $A 1 billion over five years to implementing a range of domestic greenhouse gas reduction programmes. On a per capita basis, Australia was spending more money on greenhouse gas reduction

efforts than any other developed nation. To address greenhouse gas issues, Australia had developed a National Greenhouse Strategy, which covered a broad range of key sectors including energy, transport, industry, waste and agriculture. He briefly set out some of the measures that his Government was putting in place in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas abatement, industry involvement, carbon accounting and emissions trading.

56. Australia's national circumstances were unique. Its demography, geography, resource base, trade profile, economic structure and the energy intensity of its exports required it to develop a unique strategy for reducing its emissions. It had taken measures to promote cutting-edge renewable energy technology and improve energy efficiency in Australian industry. His Government was also helping other countries to do likewise. Indeed, since its inception, the International Greenhouse Partnerships Office had facilitated nine projects in five countries, totalling investments in excess of $A 120 million and resulting in greenhouse gas emissions reduction of approximately 1.3 million tonnes per annum. Australia remained a strong advocate of equitable, realistic, cost-effective and environmentally effective solutions. Strong economics were compatible with better environmental outcomes.

57. **Ms. Rühl Burzi** (Observer for Switzerland) said that the decisions taken at the Sixth Conference would have an immediate impact on all involved in the fight against climate change. The Conference must reach an understanding on how to transfer environmentally-sound technologies to developing countries and provide capacity-building with respect to the fight against climate change. Decisions must also be taken on issues relating to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. With respect to the Kyoto Protocol, the Conference must set out modalities with regard to joint implementation, the clean development mechanism and emissions trading. Decisions must also be made on the use of carbon dioxide sinks. Moreover, in order to ensure the credibility of the Protocol, the Sixth Conference must adopt a strong regime requiring compliance with commitments including, if necessary, assistance to the Parties and sanctions for those who fail to meet their commitments.

58. She hoped that the Parties would have the political will to reach a consensus which was satisfactory to all and that the industrialized countries would achieve the objective of reducing their emissions by 5.2 per cent within the commitment period 2008-2012 without resorting to subterfuge. They would in turn be able to invite the developing countries to participate in efforts to limit and reduce their greenhouse gases.

59. Once consensus was reached, the next step would be to implement the Convention and Protocol at the national level in the industrialized countries. Switzerland had promulgated a law requiring that carbon dioxide emissions be reduced by 10 per cent by 2010 compared with 1990 levels. It was thus already implementing the Kyoto Protocol even before ratifying it.

60. **Mr. Popov** (Belarus) said that efforts to combat climate change must be carried out on both a national and a global scale. Overcoming those problems could lead to solutions to some of the problems of sustainable social and economic development as well. Reliable forecasts of climate change could facilitate adaptation and mitigation of the consequences. In implementation of the Convention, Belarus had begun an inventory of greenhouse gas sources and sinks using the methodology of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It had long been a part of the international climate monitoring system, but it had serious concerns about the low level of international support for national efforts in that area. Without an increase in such support, his country would find it difficult to make an impact in its efforts to prevent climate change.

61. His delegation welcomed the growing numbers of parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the cooperation being provided by the World Bank in reducing emissions. In an interdependent world, problems of climate change must be solved by the international community as a whole.

62. **Mr. Stanczyk** (Poland) said that climate change constituted a major challenge for the international community. Poland was one of the few countries that had been able to meet its commitments under the Convention; it had not only stabilized its greenhouse gas emissions in 2000 but had also reduced them by more than 25 per cent. It was equally determined to implement the commitments agreed upon under the Kyoto Protocol.

63. Poland was aware that meeting the Kyoto Protocol targets would be a difficult and arduous process and would require many sacrifices in terms of

economic growth. It firmly believed that the environmental integrity of the Protocol must be preserved. One of the advantages of the Protocol was that it provided a framework for the application of market mechanisms. Emissions trading and joint implementation should therefore not be burdened by additional charges and international taxation, since that would be inconsistent with the very nature of those mechanisms which were supposed to assist Annex I parties in fulfilling their commitments in the most cost-efficient manner. It was extremely important to meet the most vital concerns of the countries which undertook legally binding commitments.

64. **Mr. Donoso** (Chile) expressed deep concern at the results of recent scientific research pointing to an unprecedented increase in the size of the hole in the ozone layer above the southern hemisphere. The continued existence and persistence of that phenomenon had raised fears that in the near future the problem could have grave and far-reaching consequences. His country was a party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and all the Amendments thereto. Thus far, it was the only country to have subscribed to the Beijing amendment.

65. He called for the identification of the countries that were most vulnerable to the consequences of the depletion of the ozone layer with a view to granting them a special financial status with respect to the problem. States parties should promptly ratify the Montreal and Beijing amendments; combat the illegal traffic in substances that depleted the ozone layer; enact national legislation to prohibit the importation, manufacture and trade in those substances; and promote greater consumer awareness of the issue. They also introduce special seals to distinguish products that did not damage the ozone layer; promote safe alternative technologies and allocate resources for activities to monitor ultraviolet rays and to study the impact on ecosystems and human health of the problem under discussion.

66. **Mr. Ainchil** (Argentina) said that while the discussions on specific aspects of the Kyoto Protocol were very important, they should not divert the international community's attention from the main objective, namely, stabilizing the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions at a level that prevented anthropogenic interference with the climate system. His delegation had noted with great concern the increase in greenhouse emissions in some industrialized countries; the decline in such emissions in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom was a very positive sign however.

67. In his delegation's view, appropriate conditions should be created for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol while at the same time ensuring the transfer of financial and technological resources so that developing countries could adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. To that end, both the developed and developing countries had to work together to achieve balanced agreements that facilitated a reduction in emissions and sustainable development within the context of common but differentiated responsibilities. He expressed the hope that the Sixth Conference of the Parties would be able to reach agreements in key areas.

68. **Mr. Ji** Fusheng (China) said that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility must be observed when addressing global climate change issues. The developed countries were the main source of greenhouse gas emissions; they should take the lead in reducing such emissions. The Kyoto Protocol sought to specify quantified emission reduction obligations for developed countries while providing extraterritorial emission reduction mechanisms. However, the latter were complementary to the domestic reduction efforts of developed countries. Moreover, the Protocol in no way affected the obligations with respect to technology transfer and financial assistance that the developed countries had assumed under the Convention. They should therefore take steps as soon as possible to honour their obligations to provide financial assistance and transfer technology to developing countries.

69. The European Union had clearly expressed its wish for the Protocol to come into force before 2002. His delegation hoped that various countries would respect the fundamental principles set out in the Protocol so as to conclude the negotiations and bring the Protocol into force at an early date.

70. The Sixth Conference of the Parties should aim at solving existing issues instead of raising new ones. He hoped that the Conference would be able to achieve results that were satisfactory to all parties and make substantial progress on issues of concern to developing countries, such as technology development and transfer and capacity-building with a view to establishing

necessary institutional safeguards and effectively enhancing the capacity of developing countries to cope with climate change. The international community should strictly abide by the principles and the spirit of the Convention. Developed countries and developing countries should fulfil their respective obligations in accordance with the principles of the Convention and establish partnerships to effectively cooperate in protecting the global climate for present and future generations.

71. **Mr. Zammit Cutajar** (Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) said that he was encouraged by the statements made and commitments to seek constructive outcomes. He also appreciated the statements calling for support for national action, especially in developing countries. Responding to the point raised by the representative of Nigeria on the need for coordination of conference schedules and calendars in order to avoid overlaps and conflicts, he noted that Member States would have to adopt coherent positions on that matter in the different fora concerned.

**Agenda item 94: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation** (*continued*)

72. **The Chairman** announced that Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Sweden should be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.4 entitled "Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy" and that Belgium, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Kenya, Luxembourg and South Africa should be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.5 entitled "Status of preparation for the International Year of Mountains, 2002".

*The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.*